SUNDAY GX COMICS

ボンボン

COMIC BOMBER

島本和彦

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SUNDAY GX COMICS

HOWLING PEN

島本和彦

SHIMAMOTO
KAZUHIKO

ほえろペン

COMIC
BOMBER

1

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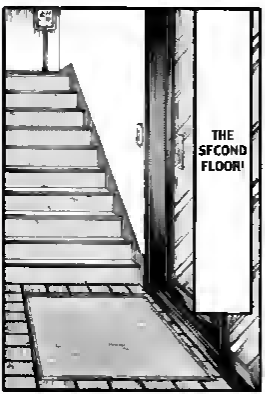
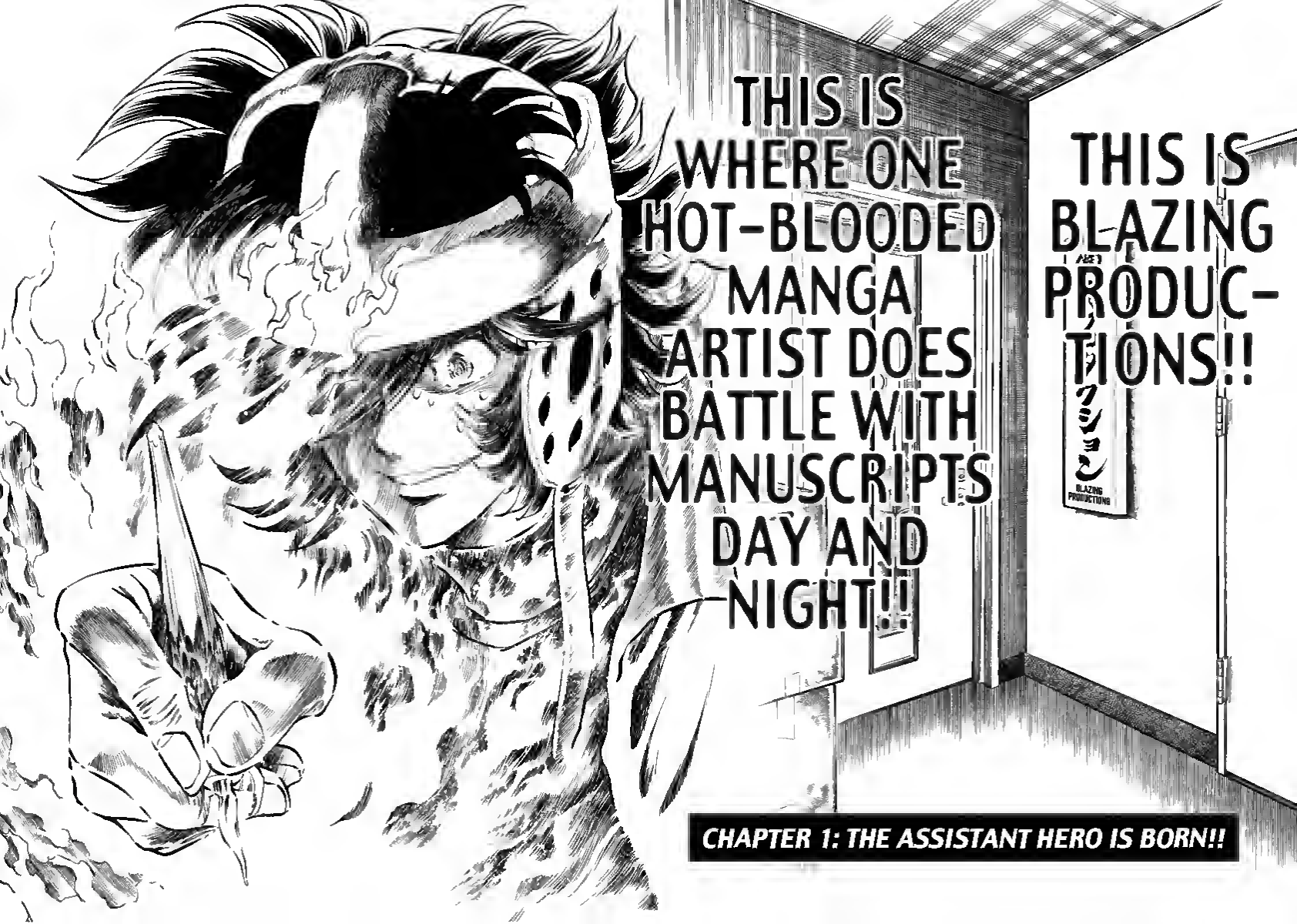
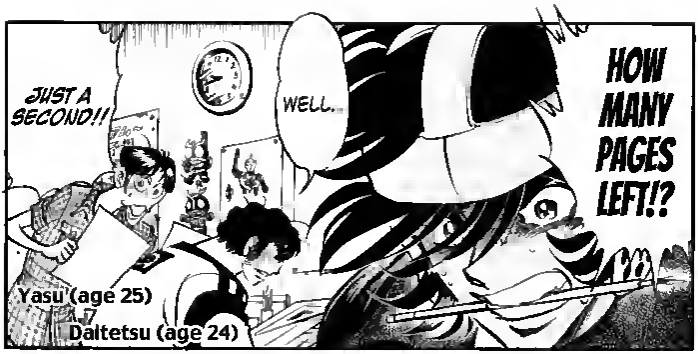
CHAPTER 1: THE ASSISTANT HERO IS BORN!!

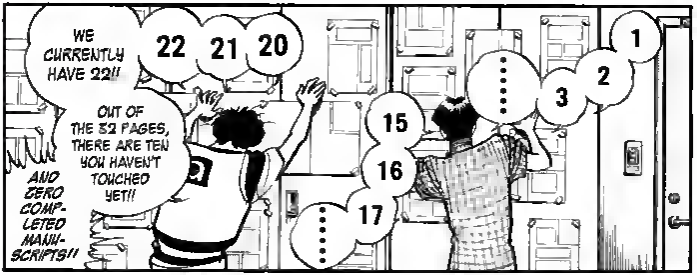



THIS IS WHERE ONE HOT-BLOODED MANGA ARTIST DOES BATTLE WITH MANUSCRIPTS DAY AND NIGHT!!
THIS IS BLAZING PRODUC-TIONS!!
ブレイジングプロダクション
BLAZING PRODUCTIONS
CHAPTER 1: THE ASSISTANT HERO IS BORN!!

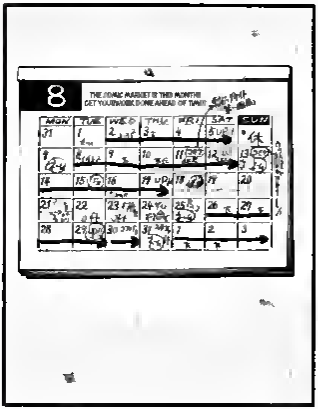
THIS IS ADVER-SITY!!

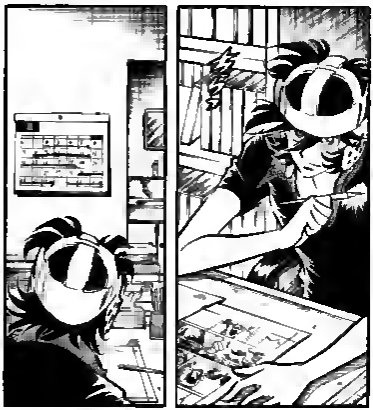
THIS MAN IS THE MANGA ARTIST NAMED HONOO MOYURU! HE HAS TWO MONTHLY SERIES AND ONE BIWEEKLY SERIES! HE'S JUST ANOTHER COMPLETELY ORDINARY MANGA ARTIST!!
ガシッ!!


JUST A SECOND!!
WELL...
HOW MANY PAGES LEFT!?
Yasu (age 25)
Daltetsu (age 24)


WE CURRENTLY HAVE 22!!
22
21
20
OUT OF THE 32 PAGES, THERE ARE TEN YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED YET!!
AND ZERO COMPLETED MANUSCRIPTS!!
1
2
3
15
16
17

6


8
THE COMIC MARKET IS THIS MONTH! GET YOUR MANGA DONE AHEAD OF TIME!
MON
TUE
WED
THU
FRI
SAT
SUN

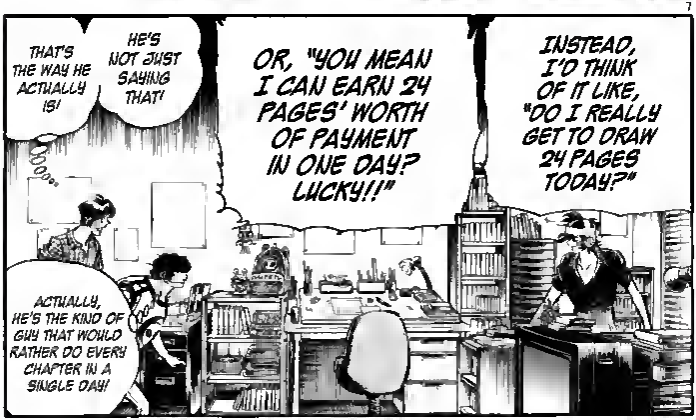


.....

EVEN IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE DAY UNTIL THE DEAD-LINE...
NEVER IN MY LIFE HAVE I COMPLAINED ABOUT HOW "WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE IT"...
AND I HAD 24 BLANK PAGES TO GET THROUGH...

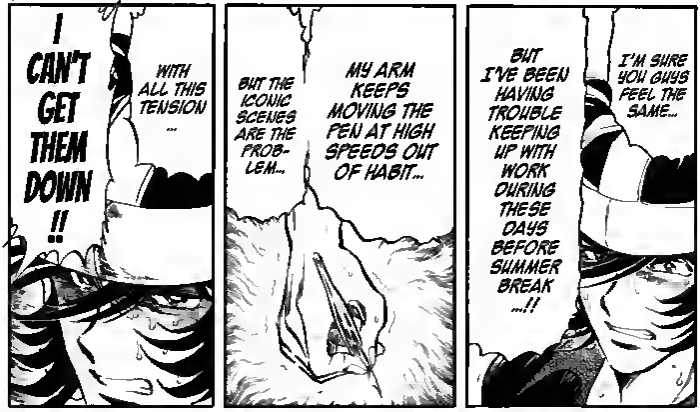
...LISTEN TO ME, GUYS
カリカリ

7


THAT'S THE WAY HE ACTUALLY IS!
HE'S NOT JUST SAYING THAT!
OR, "YOU MEAN I CAN EARN 24 PAGES' WORTH OF PAYMENT IN ONE DAY? LUCKY!!"
INSTEAD, I'D THINK OF IT LIKE, "DO I REALLY GET TO DRAW 24 PAGES TODAY?"
ACTUALLY, HE'S THE KIND OF GUY THAT WOULD RATHER DO EVERY CHAPTER IN A SINGLE DAY!

LET ME BE CLEAR !!
BUT WITH THAT SAID,
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO BE CLEAR!!
WAIT, "MIGHT BE HARD"!?
THAT MIGHT BE HARD THIS TIME!!
HE'S STILL UNWILLING TO ACCEPT DEFEAT!!
HUH!? IS HE COMPLAINING!?

6


I CAN'T GET THEM DOWN !!
WITH ALL THIS TENSION ...
BUT THE ICONIC SCENES ARE THE PROBLEM...
MY ARM KEEPS MOVING THE PEN AT HIGH SPEEDS OUT OF HABIT...
BUT I'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING UP WITH WORK DURING THESE DAYS BEFORE SUMMER BREAK ...!!
I'M SURE YOU GUYS FEEL THE SAME...

I ALMOST WANT TO REDO THE INKED PAGES I HAVE TAPED UP ON THE WALL!
THE TRUTH IS...
...I THINK I CAN UNDERSTAND!!
DON'T WE NEED ALL THE TIME WE..
ARE WE REALLY GOING!?
IT'S TIME TO DRAW UP A BATTLE PLAN! LET'S GO TO THE ROYAL!!
WE NEED TO START AGAIN WITH A FRESH SET OF EYES!!
W-WHAT? ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS!?
Mobius
S-SO THEY REALLY THINK SO, HUH!?
OH.
KCH.. THEY COULDVE JUST SAID IT WASN'T SO!!

Royal Hospital 10:05 AM
Royal Hospital
Royal Hospital

MR HONDO !?

YOU'RE ORDERING YOUR USUAL PANNA COTTA, RIGHT...?
OKAY! WHY DON'T WE ORDER SOME DESSERT WHILE WE THINK!?

HE'S ENTERED "SCREW IT ALL MODE"...!?
D-DON'T TELL ME...

S-SOMETHING'S WRONG...!!

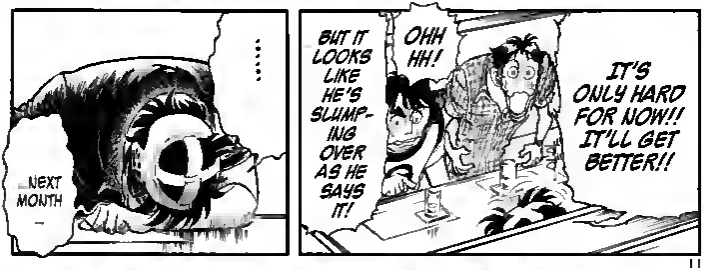
10

WHY!? HE COULD'VE JUST AS EASILY JUST SAID "TIME MACHINE"!
W-WAIT, WHY DID HE BRING DORAEMON INTO THIS!?
WHY DID HE HAVE TO MAKE A REFERENCE THAT BORDERS ON COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT!?
LET'S SAY...
...THAT YOU HAD DORAEMON'S TIME MACHINE...

WILL EVEN BE PRINTED IN IT...!?

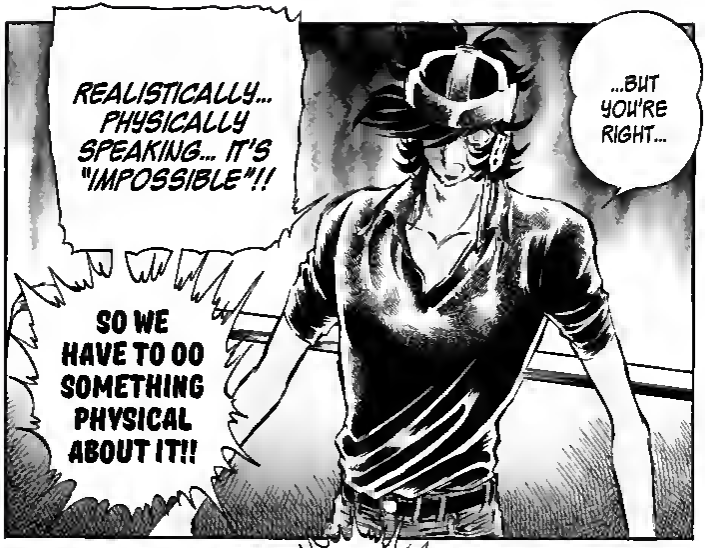
DO YOU THINK THE MANGA WE'RE WORKING ON NOW...
AND YOU WENT INTO THE FUTURE AND BOUGHT NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE...

I'M SURE WE'LL BE FINE!!
THAT'S WHY..
YEAH... I THINK SO, TOO...

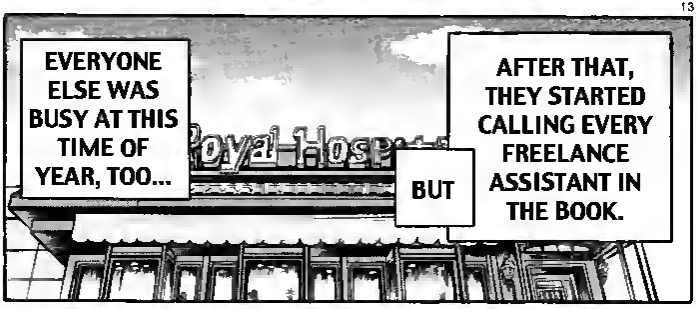

.....
...NEXT MONTH...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S SLUMPING OVER AS HE SAYS IT!
OHHHH!
IT'S ONLY HARD FOR NOW!! IT'LL GET BETTER!!

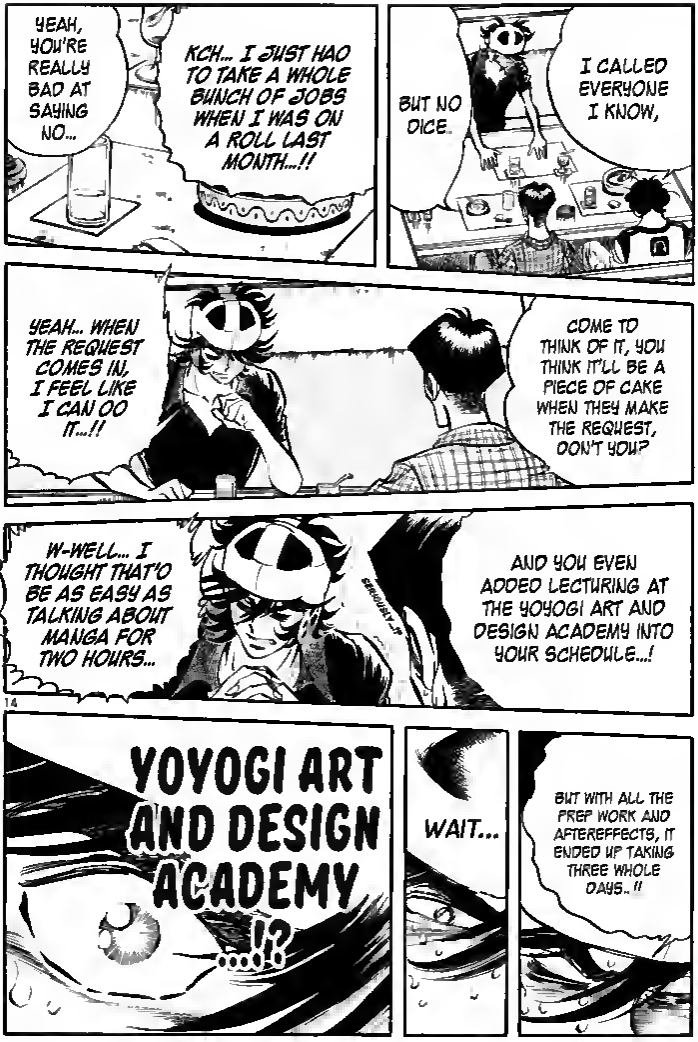
ONE LITTLE MANGA CAN'T CHANGE ANY OF THAT... IT'S POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING...!
SO EVEN IF IT DOESN'T GET PRINTED, IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD!!
CRIME WILL CONTINUE UNCHECKED, AND WE'LL KEEP GETTING ONE STEP CLOSER TO A GREYING SOCIETY...!
THE SUN WILL RISE AND SET, JUST LIKE IT ALWAYS DOES!
IF MY MANGA DOESN'T GET PRINTED NEXT MONTH... THAT WON'T IMPACT THE WORLD IN ANY WAY!
HE'S IN TROUBLE!!
MR. HONOO'S FALLING APART MORE AND MORE!
AHHH...

IT COULD SAVE SOME-ONE'S LIFE!
YOUR MANGA COULD KEEP SOMEONE FROM BECOMING A CRIMINAL!
YOU CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE!!
MR. HONDO!
THAT'S A "GO GO FIVE" REFERENCE, BY THE WAY!!
MEANS "SAVING INFINITE FUTURES" !!
AND EVEN SAVING A SINGLE LIFE
OHHH! YOU LEARN FROM CHILDREN'S SHOWS!!
12
WE'RE NOT GONNA GET THE MANU-SCRIPTS DONE ON TIME!!
BUT EVEN WITH THAT SAID,
AHHH! WE'RE CRASHING BACK TO REALITY!!
YEAH !!
MR HONDO !!
That reference got him pretty much back on his feet.


REALISTICALLY... PHYSICALLY SPEAKING... IT'S "IMPOSSIBLE"!!
SO WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING PHYSICAL ABOUT IT!!
...BUT YOU'RE RIGHT...

13


EVERYONE ELSE WAS BUSY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, TOO...
BUT
AFTER THAT, THEY STARTED CALLING EVERY FREELANCE ASSISTANT IN THE BOOK.


YEAH, YOU'RE REALLY BAD AT SAYING NO...
KCH... I JUST HAD TO TAKE A WHOLE BUNCH OF JOBS WHEN I WAS ON A ROLL LAST MONTH...!!
I CALLED EVERYONE I KNOW,
BUT NO DICE.
YEAH... WHEN THE REQUEST COMES IN, I FEEL LIKE I CAN DO IT...!!
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU THINK IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE WHEN THEY MAKE THE REQUEST, DON'T YOU?
W-WELL... I THOUGHT THAT'D BE AS EASY AS TALKING ABOUT MANGA FOR TWO HOURS...
GROOAAT...!?
AND YOU EVEN ADDED LECTURING AT THE YOYOGI ART AND DESIGN ACADEMY INTO YOUR SCHEDULE...!
14
YOYOGI ART AND DESIGN ACADEMY
...!?
WAIT...
BUT WITH ALL THE PREP WORK AND AFTEREFFECTS, IT ENDED UP TAKING THREE WHOLE DAYS..!!

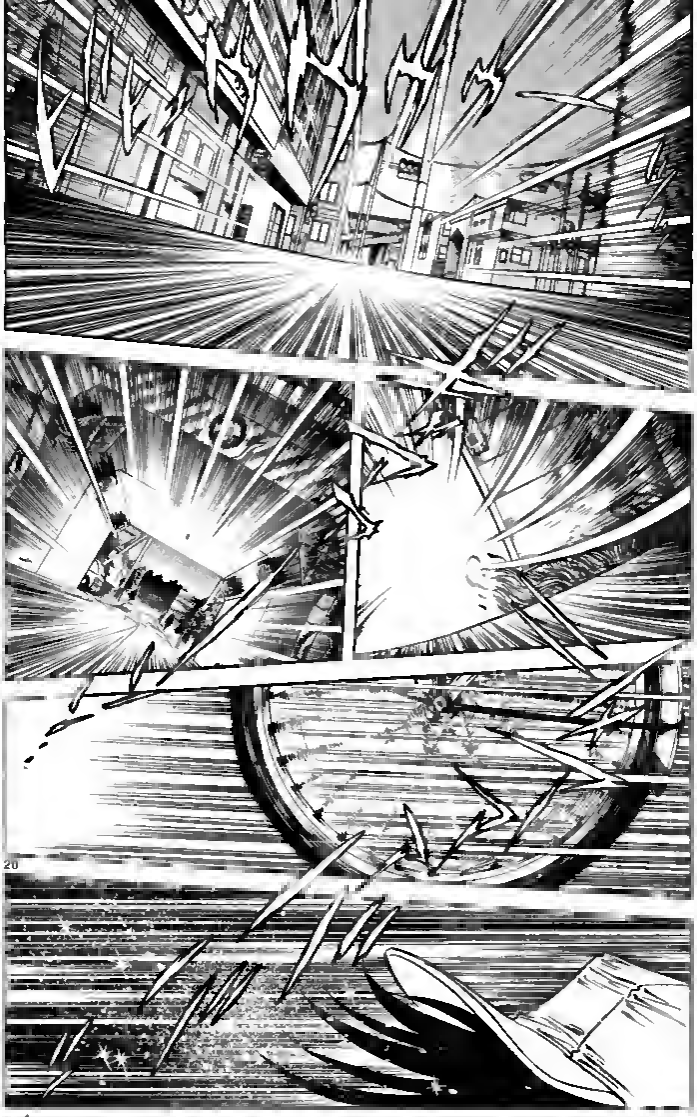
I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.
THIS IS OUR COMICS CLASS-ROOM
I'M AOKI FROM THE YOYOGI ART ACADEMY.
..WHAT ARE THOSE?
THOSE ARE ALL INTROOUCTORY MESSAGES FROM OUR STUDENTS
INTRODUCTION

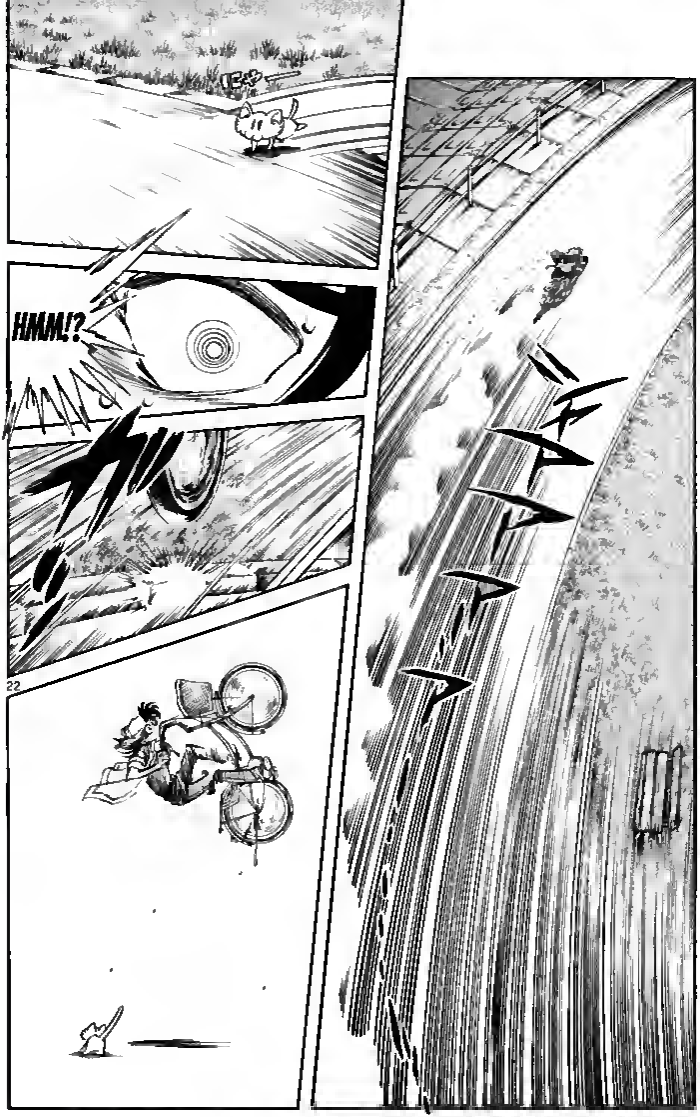
MAESUGI HIRO
HOBBIES AND SKILLS
FAVORITE MANGA ARTIST
FAVORITE COMIC MAGAZINE
SUBJECT MATTER
GOALS
FAVORITE MANGA ARTIST
OH!
SO HE LIKES MY MANGA...
I GUESS I'LL GET HIM TO HELP IF THE TIME COMES!!
IF THE TIME COMES!!
THAT TIME IS NOW!!
NOW!!

17
CAN YOU PUT ME THROUGH TO AOKI FROM THE COMICS DEPARTMENT...?
YES!!
HELLO, THIS IS HONDO, THE MANGA ARTIST...
HE MOVED!!
OHHHH !?

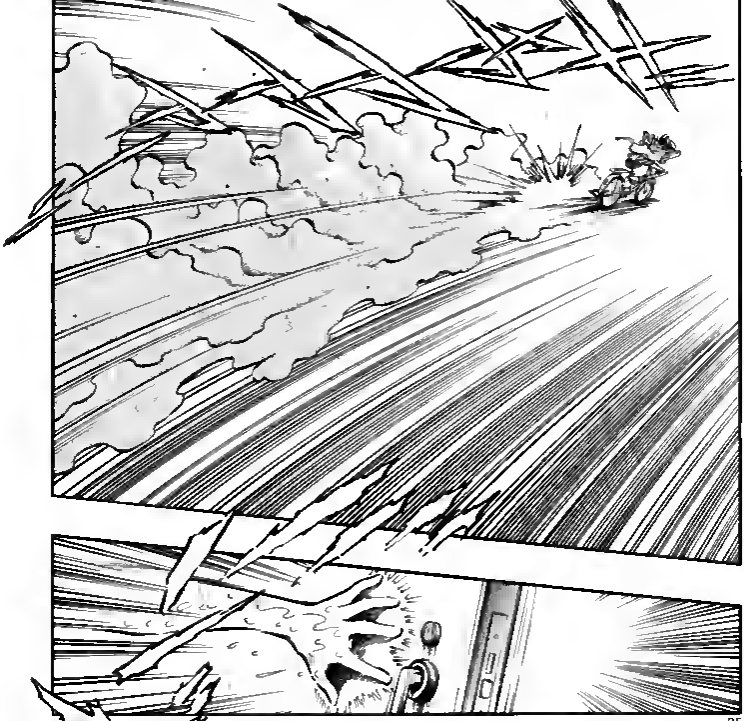
HELLO!! THIS IS HONOO !!
YES, GOOD TO TALK TO YOU AGAIN...
NOW, I KNOW THIS MAY SEEM A LITTLE RUDE,
BUT CAN I BORROW ONE OF YOUR STUDENTS WHO'S A FAN OF MINE!?
NOW!!
YES... RIGHT NOW!!
SEND HIM OVER BY TAXI!
AND MAKE SURE HE GETS A RECEIPT ...
THIS IS UR-GENT!
YES! MAKE IT OUT TO "BLAZING PRODUC-TIONS"!!

OHHHHHHH
BUT IS ONE GONNA BE ENOUGH!?
IS THE PROBLEM SOLVED NOW?
HHH!
WE CAN MAKE IT!!
WE REALLY CAN MAKE IT!!
WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT TAKING OUR TIME!!
DON'T WORRY..
WE'VE AT LEAST GOT ONE FOR NOW!
THEY'RE GOING TO SEND ANOTHER ONCE CLASSES ARE OVER!!
19
TWO HOURS LATER ...
..HE'S NOT COMING
HE'S NOT COM-ING!
WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG!?


20


HMM!?
22

HUFF HUFF
HUFF HUFF
24
GOOD!
MY RIGHT HAND'S OKAY!



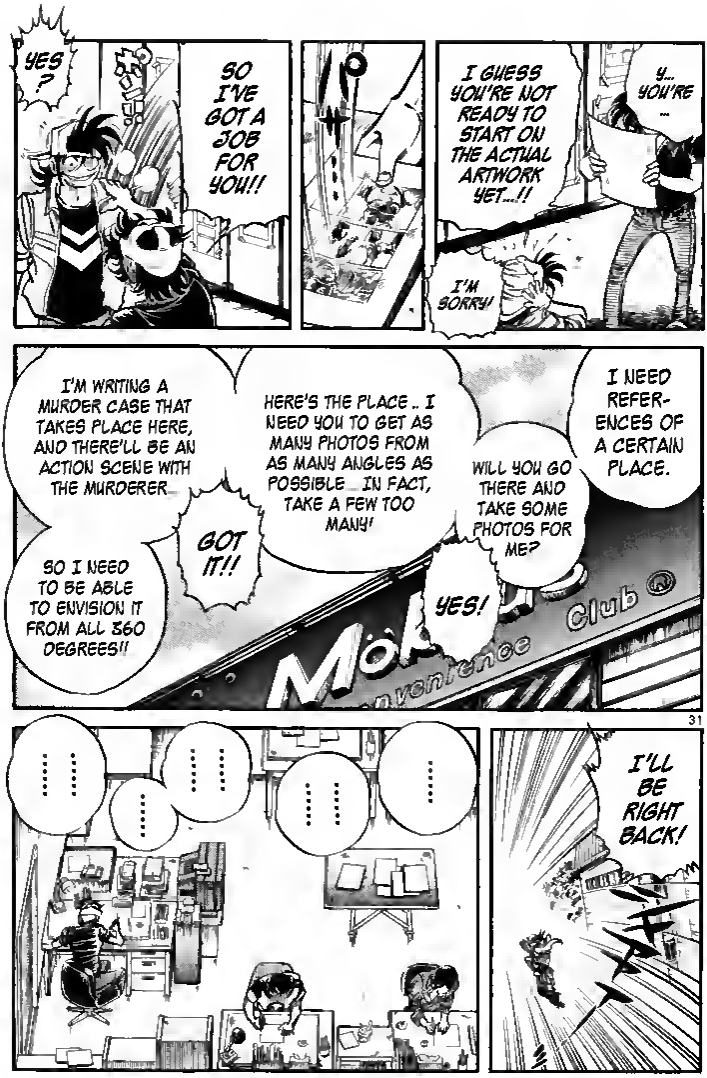
SORRY I'M LATE!!
I'M FROM THE YOYOGI ART AND DESIGN ACADEMY...
MY NAME'S MAESUGI HIRO!!
HE'S LATE ON HIS FIRST DAY.
...NO, NEVER MIND!!
I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!!
I'M SORRY THIS IS SO SUDDEN, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP!!
UH...
Y-YES, SIR!
I'M HONOO.

I DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THE SCHOOL TO GET MY BIKE...
SORRY, BUT I CAME BY BIKE INSTEAD...!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
BY THE WAY, I THOUGHT I TOLD THEM TO SEND YOU HERE BY TAXI...
THE TOOLS ARE ALL THERE...
スケル
THAT'S YOUR SEAT!
W..WELL, ALRIGHT...
YES!
ALRIGHT... SO CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS WHOLE STACK HERE!?
GOT IT!
I'D LIKE YOU TO START FOCUSING ON ADDING WHITEOUT AND APPLYING SCREENTONE...
27
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

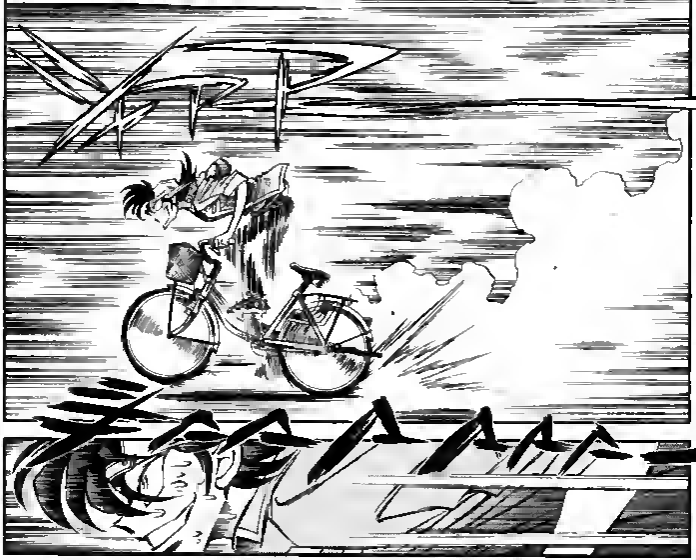
HUFF HUFF
HUFF
HUFF HUFF
HUFF
HUFF HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
CG
HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS !?
WHY DO I

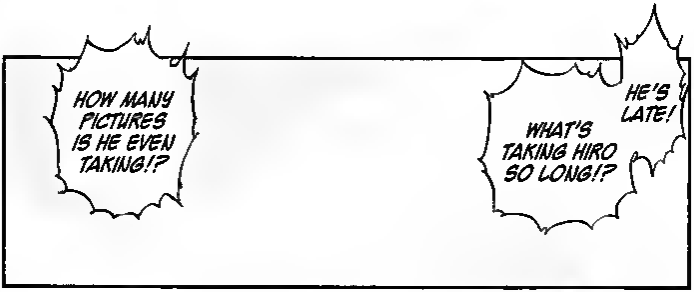
WAIT!!
ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO USE WHITEOUT WITH SUCH A SHAKY HAND!?
CALM DOWN..! ..UHHH, WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN..?
IT'S MAE-SUGI HIRO!
YES, MAE-SUGI!
YOU'RE GETTING WAY TOO FAR AHEAD OF YOUR-SELF!!
29
HIRO.. HOW DO YOU WRITE THAT?
YOU WRITE IT AS "SI" AND "YUU"!
THAT'S NOT "HIRO"... THAT'S "HERO"!!
YEAH, BUT MY NAME'S HIRO!!
THAT'S A GOOD NAME..

BUT... ISN'T A REAL HERO SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEONE WHO ADMITS HIS OWN WEAKNESSES!?
THAT'S A REFERENCE TO CAR-RANGERS!!
H... HUH?
YES. DAITETSU'S REFERENCE IS RIGHT
YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WORK ON A PRO-FESSIONAL MANU-SCRIPT
B.. BUT...
I'VE ALREADY WORKED ON OVER HALF OF THEM!
WHAT!?
AHH!
AH!
AHH HHH!
AHHH HHHHH HHHH!
...


YES?
SO I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU!!
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT READY TO START ON THE ACTUAL ARTWORK YET...!!
I'M SORRY!
Y... YOU'RE...
I NEED REFERENCES OF A CERTAIN PLACE.
WILL YOU GO THERE AND TAKE SOME PHOTOS FOR ME?
YES!
HERE'S THE PLACE.. I NEED YOU TO GET AS MANY PHOTOS FROM AS MANY ANGLES AS POSSIBLE.. IN FACT, TAKE A FEW TOO MANY!
GOT IT!!
I'M WRITING A MURDER CASE THAT TAKES PLACE HERE, AND THERE'LL BE AN ACTION SCENE WITH THE MURDERER...
SO I NEED TO BE ABLE TO ENVISION IT FROM ALL 360 DEGREES!!
Club
31
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
DASH

.....
.....
.....
.....
YEAH...
THAT'S A NICE NAME.
HERO...
YEAH...
Y...
...HE'S GONE..
I GUESS...
U...UHH...
Y-YEAH...
BUT TIME WILL TELL WHETHER OR NOT HE'LL BECOME A TRUE HERO!!
32
I THINK I'LL NEED ANOTHER TWO ASSISTANTS... AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.. IS THAT ALRIGHT? YES, BY TAXI, PLEASE...!!
YES.. SO ANYWAY...
I'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH MR. AOKI..
OH! HI, THIS IS HONOO...
RRRRRR*



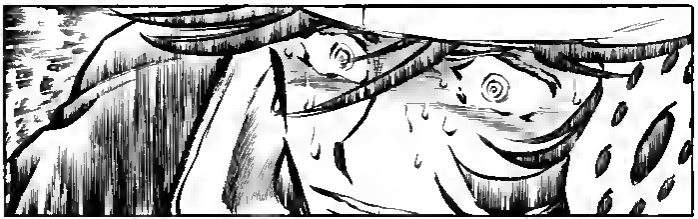

HOW MANY PICTURES IS HE EVEN TAKING!?
WHAT'S TAKING HIRO SO LONG!?
HE'S LATE!

33

ALRIGHT, PUT ME ON!
MR HONDO! IT'S FROM HIRO!
HELLO, BLAZING PRODUC-TIONS..

H-HANG ON, I COULDN'T QUITE MAKE THAT OUT...
WHAT?
...HUH!?
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG, HIRO!? I NEED THOSE PHOTOS BEFORE THE 30-MINUTE PRINT STORE CLOSES.

OKAY!
TURN DOWN THE RADIO.



34

...HE WENT TO TAKE PICTURES TO SERVE AS REFERENCES FOR A MURDER SCENE...
BUT WHEN HE GOT THERE...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, MR HONDO!?
WHAT'D HIRO DO...!?
DON'T COME STRAIGHT BACK HERE...
OKAY, I UNDERSTAND, HIRO...
CAN I GET YOUR CELL NUMBER!?

THERE ACTUALLY... WAS ONE...!
A REAL ONE...!!
ONE WHAT!?
O...
.....
Y...
YOU MEAN... A MURDER CASE!?
HE THOUGHT
THAT WAS HIS BIG BREAK...
SO HE TOOK A WHOLE BUNCH OF PHOTOS...!!
WAAA AAAAA AAAAA AAAAA UGH!!!

MOVE ALL THE MANU-SCRIPTS TO THE NEXT ROOM!!
I KNOW THAT!!
IF HE COMES BACK HERE, WE'LL ALL BE IN TROUBLE!!
W-WHAT DO WE DO!?
NOW HE'S BEING FOLLOWED..
WHIRRRR
THE ONES THAT STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE GO HERE!!
THE ONES THAT ARE CLOSE TO COMPLETION GO OVER HERE!!
AND THE ONES THAT ONLY HAVE THE CHARACTER ART GO HERE!!

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BACKGROUNDS FOR THE LAST TEN PAGES, ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE FINISHING TOUCHES. THOSE CAN ALL BE DONE WITHOUT ME..!
..GOOD..
...GOOD...!
MR. HONOO!?
IF WORSE COMES TO WORST, YOU CAN COME UP WITH THE BACKGROUNDS YOURSELF!!
AND THE LAST TEN PAGES AT LEAST HAVE THE CHARACTER ART!
37
B... BUT WE'RE NOT GONNA MEET THE DEADLINE WITHOUT YOU!!
AND WHAT WOULD YOU EVEN DO TO HELP!?
I HAVE TO GO...!!
I'M GOING...

I'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THAT WHEN I GET THERE!
WELL ...
W-
.....
.....
MR. HONOO !!
YOU GUYS HOLD DOWN THE FORT!!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
39
DAMMIT! IT ALREADY TURNED GREEN!
AHH!
OH, PERFECT! A VENDING MACHINE!!
I HAVE TO GET SOME DISTANCE ON HIM WHILE THE LIGHT'S STILL RED...!

WHAT DO I DO!?
AND I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE ACTUAL SITUATION...
I WANT THOSE REFE-RENCES..
WHAT DO I DO ?
BUT NOT IF IT'S AN ACTUAL CRIME SCENE!!
I WANT TO SEE THE PICTURES HE TOOK..
40
A VENDING MACHINE?
WHAT!?
THIS IS HONOO!! WHERE ARE YOU ...?
HMM? IS THAT YOU, HIRO!?
KCCH... WHAT DO I

RIGHT HERE!
GIVE ME JUST A SECOND!
THIS IS IT.
MAKE TWO COPIES OF EACH!
MAKE OUT THE RECEIPT TO "BLAZING PRODUCTIONS"!!
PRINT THESE, PLEASE!
PRINTS IN MINUTES!
DPE Store
¥10 EACH
I JUST DROPPED THE REFERENCES OFF AT THE PRINTER! GO PICK THEM UP IN HALF AN HOUR!
HEY, IT'S ME!
...HOW DO YOU SPELL "BLAZING" AGAIN?
IT'S B-L-A-Z-I-N-G!

PICK THEM UP IN HALF AN HOUR!
EXACTLY
ONE FOR THE POLICE, AND ONE FOR REFERENCE!!
GOT IT. YOU ASKED FOR TWO COPIES EACH, RIGHT?
ARE YOU... STILL ALIVE... HERO !?
.....

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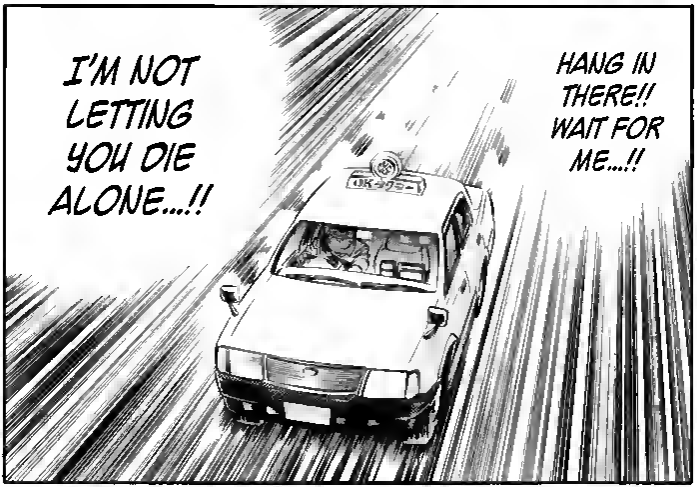
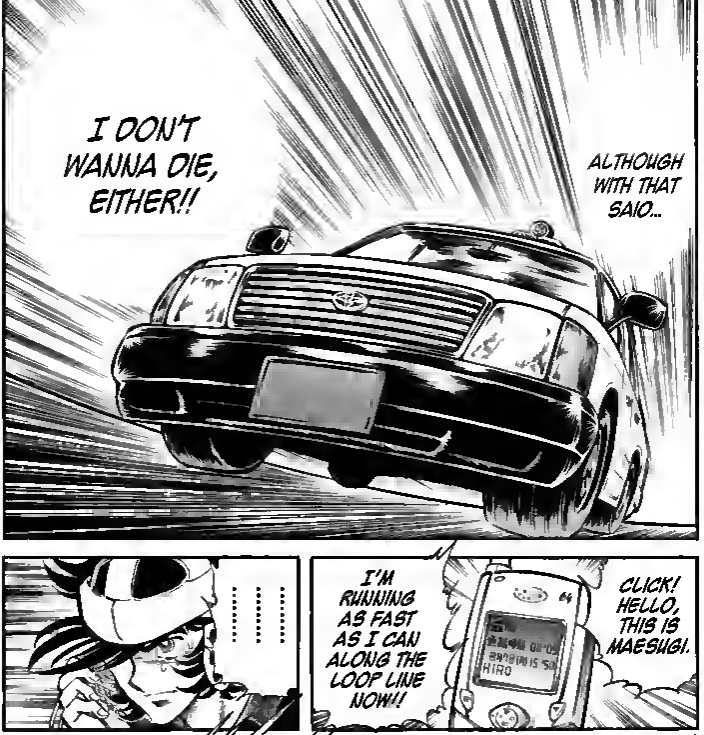
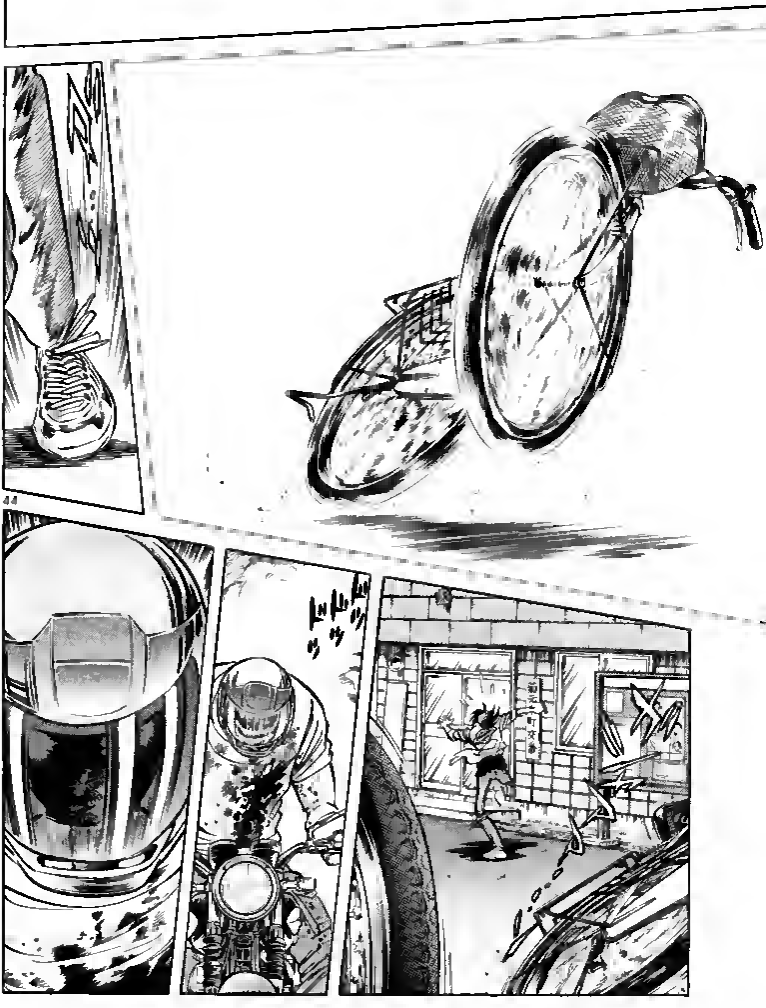

I'M NOT LETTING YOU DIE ALONE...!!
HANG IN THERE!! WAIT FOR ME...!!


I DON'T WANNA DIE, EITHER!!
ALTHOUGH WITH THAT SAIO...

.....
I'M RUNNING AS FAST AS I CAN ALONG THE LOOP LINE NOW!!
CLICK! HELLO, THIS IS MAESHIGI.
HIRO

YOU DON'T NEED TO STALL FOR TIME ANY-MORE!!
...LOOK, FORGET ABOUT THAT! JUST HEAD FOR THE NEAREST POLICE BOX!!



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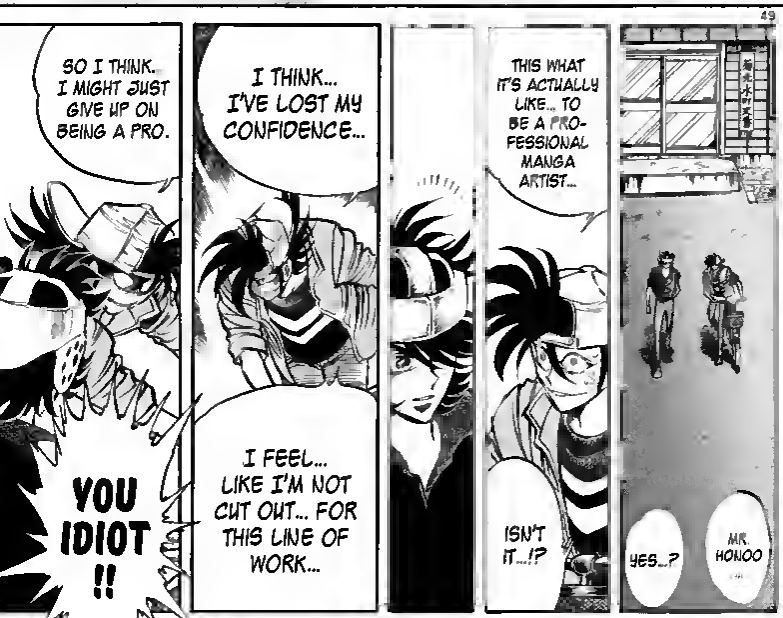
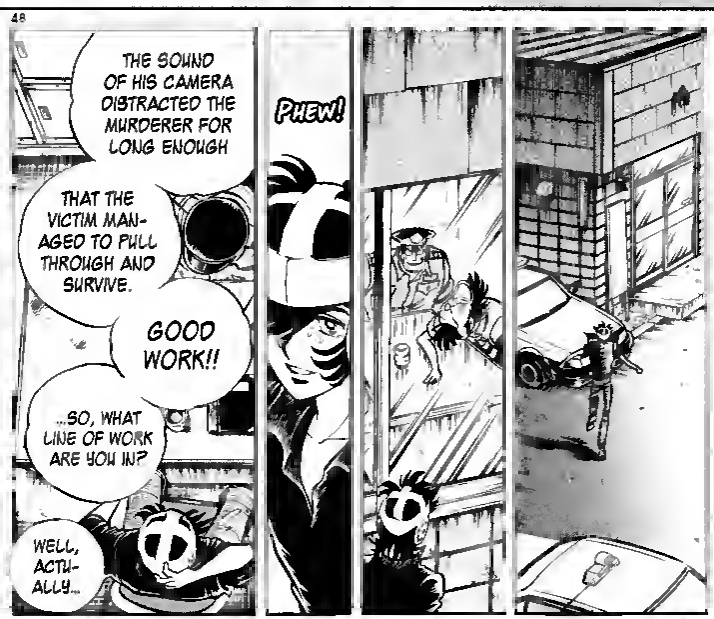
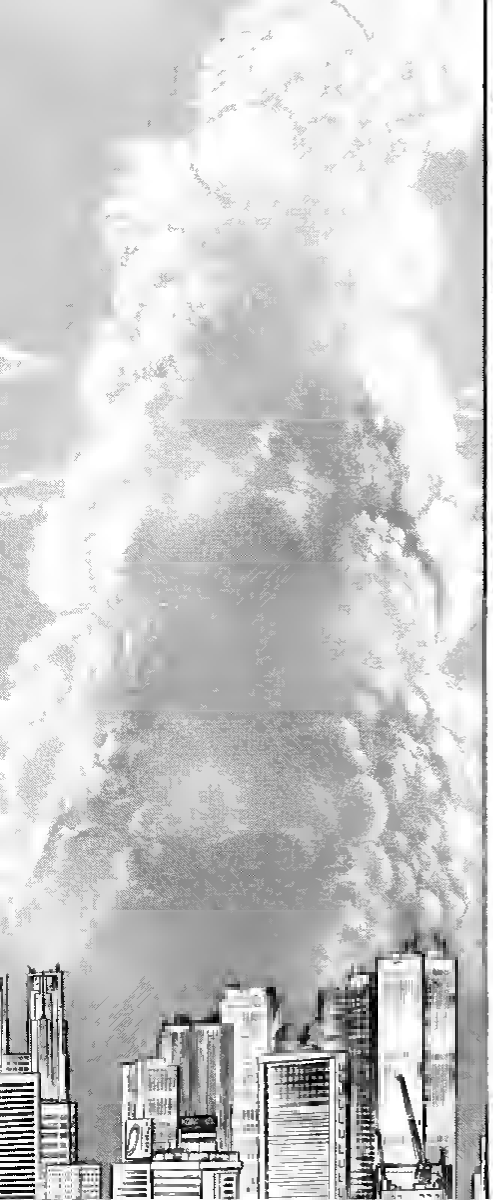
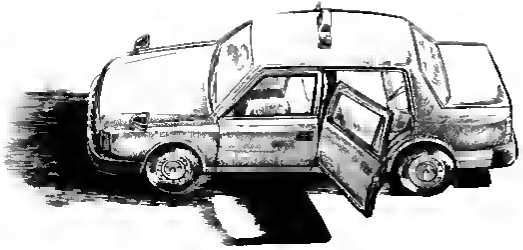

SO I THINK. I MIGHT JUST GIVE UP ON BEING A PRO.
YOU IDIOT !!
I THINK... I'VE LOST MY CONFIDENCE...
I FEEL... LIKE I'M NOT CUT OUT... FOR THIS LINE OF WORK...
THIS WHAT IT'S ACTUALLY LIKE... TO BE A PRO-FESSIONAL MANGA ARTIST...
ISN'T IT...!?
49
YES...?
MR. HONOO

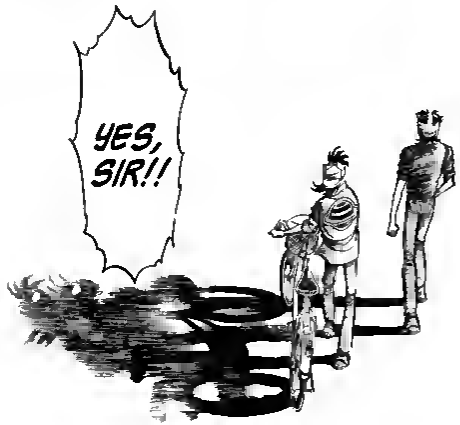

48
THE SOUND OF HIS CAMERA DISTRACTED THE MURDERER FOR LONG ENOUGH
THAT THE VICTIM MAN-AGED TO PULL THROUGH AND SURVIVE.
GOOD WORK!!
...SO, WHAT LINE OF WORK ARE YOU IN?
WELL, ACTU-ALLY...
PHEW!

MR. HONOO...
BUT ACTUAL EXPERIENCE IS AN ASSET LIKE NONE OTHER.
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU WENT A BIT TOO FAR THIS TIME, AND YOUR LIFE ACTUALLY WAS IN DANGER..
IT'S AN IRREPLACE-ABLE, LIVING REFERENCE!!
AND YOU CAN'T JUST STOCKPILE YOUR ASSETS. OR YOUR REFERENCES!
YOU HAVE TO USE THEM TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.. AM I RIGHT...!?
51
TODAY, YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR OWN LIMITS.. THIS IS ONLY YOUR FIRST STEP TO BECOMING A REAL HERO.
MR. HONOO!!
WHAT WE DO IS SPEND OUR VALUABLE "TIME"— OUR "LIFE" — ON OUR MANU-SCRIPTS!!
AND THIS PASSING "TIME" IS YOUR "LIFE" AND MINE!!
WHILE WE'RE STANDING HERE TALKING, "TIME" IS PASSING SLOWLY BUT SURELY...
LISTEN.
YOUR LIFE'S ALWAYS ON THE LINE, NO MATTER WHAT PROFESSION YOU CHOOSE ...!!

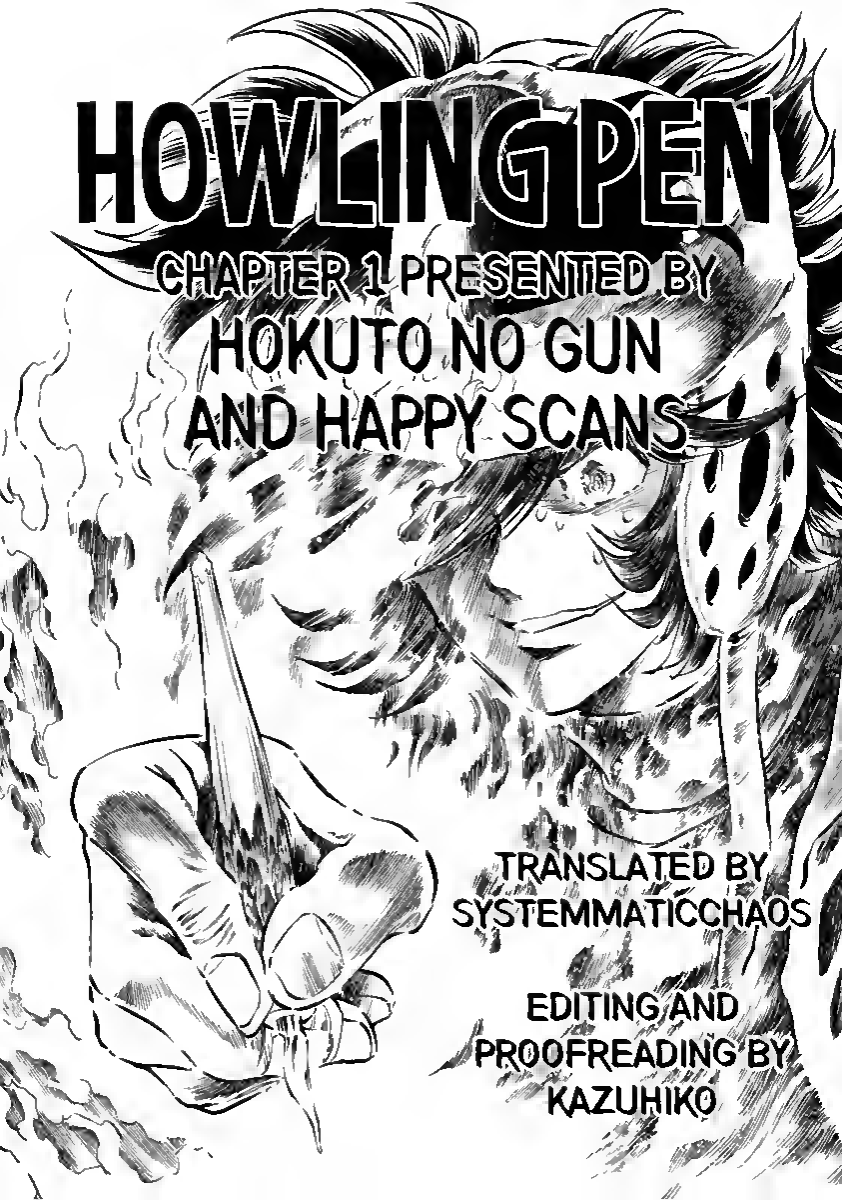




I WANT YOU TO PUT YOUR LIFE IN MY HANDS... FROM TOMORROW MORNING UNTIL THE DEADLINE...!



THIS IS A
WORK OF FICTION.
ANY RESEMBLANCE
TO REAL PERSONS,
EVENTS, OR
OTHER SETTINGS,
IS PURELY
COINCIDENTAL.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